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MARYLAND BRIEFING

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Center Renovations Gain Support

Under pressure from residents and a community group, five Montgomery County Council members have committed to funding the renovation of five community centers in historically black neighborhoods.

Speaking before more than 1,000 residents, council members said this week that they would back spending \$28 million in the county's Capital Improvement Plan.

County Executive Isiah Leggett (D) included some money in his budget blueprint to fix up one center, but others would have received funding only for minor repairs.

"We're not asking that these community centers be turned into museums; we want them to be places filled with life and recreation," said Alisa Glassman, lead organizer of Action in Montgomery.

The centers are Plum Gar, Good Hope, Ross Boddy, Scotland and Clara Barton.

Supporting the renovation are Roger Berliner (D-Potomac-Bethesda), Valerie Ervin (D-Silver Spring), Michael Knapp (D-Upcounty) and George L. Leventhal (D-At Large). Marc Elrich (D-At Large) said he would write a letter pledging his support.

— Ann E. Marimow